

Minutes of a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life
Held on
April 24, 1998 AD 131

Present: Mr. R. Côté, Chair, Ms J. Hackett, Secretary, Mr. H. Zarins, Dr. S.M. Graub, Ms A. Siano, Ms A. Kerby, Ms J. Brathwaite, Ms C. Hughes, Ms A. Ghadban, Ms. C. Blackwood, Mr. J. Edwards, Ms M. West, Ms C. Cogger, Mr. D. Hinton, Mr. W. Kennedy, Ms C. Boujaklian, Ms L. Lipscombe, Ms K. Hedrich, Mr. M. Bujold, Ms L. Toscano

Absent with Regrets: Professor B. Barbieri, Mr A. Feldman, Mr. B. Barua, Ms T. Ryan, Mr. R. MacIver, Ms A. Vroom

Delegates: Ms I. Sendek replaced Mr. W. Curran,

Guests: Ms M. Wolanski

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ms Blackwood and seconded by Ms Hughes.

The motion was carried

2. REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR

Mr. Côté took the opportunity to thank members of Council for attending the CCSL Awards reception. He extended, on behalf of Council, congratulations to Council members James Edwards, Christine Cogger, Chantal Blackwood, Maxine West and also to Les Lawton, Coach of the Women's' Hockey Team. They were recipients of CCSL Awards that evening.

Mr. Côté said, that as mandated by CCSL, he had forwarded the resolution "Students as Partners in the University" (adopted at the January 98 CCSL meeting) to the Board of Governors. A copy of the letter had been distributed to Council.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES of MARCH 20, 1998

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms Siano, seconded by Ms Cogger.

The motion was carried

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

4.1 Student Representation on Bog. It was noted that Mr. Edwards had asked that this item be deleted from the agenda as this issue was satisfactorily resolved.

4.2 Victoria Gym Proposal. Mr. Côté reminded Council that at the last CCSL meeting, questions concerning the SGW athletic facilities were raised. This issue had been deferred to the April meeting so that more information could be made

available. Mr. Zarins and Ms Wolanski will address the issue. In order to improve the current facilities on the SGW Campus, Mr. Zarins explained that partnerships with different fitness facilities in the downtown area were explored as possible alternatives to the Victoria Gym. These facilities were the M.A.A, YMCA, Nautilus Club and the Stone Gym. Mr. Zarins felt at this time the Stone Gym offered the best case scenario and distributed a report comparing the existing facilities and membership costs between the Victoria Gym and Stone Gym. A visual presentation followed detailing possible options that could result in better quality recreation & fitness facilities at the SGW Campus. As the Stone Gym does not have a gymnasium, one option would be keep the gymnasium available but in conjunction with the Stone Gym facilities. The second option would be to close the Victoria Gym Facility completely. The Stone Gym has indicated they would consider the addition of an aerobic centre down the line. Concern was expressed that it might be advisable to keep the gymnasium until an aerobics facility becomes available. Questions were raised concerning the capacity of the Stone Gym. Although the Stone Gym would not be exclusive to Concordia students, Mr. Zarins felt that the their facilities were more than adequate to handle the demand. Concern was raised about the issue of student employment at the Victoria Gym. Mr. Zarins informed Council that the Stone Gym was prepared to make available some part-time employment for Concordia Students. Arrangements could also be made to include these employment opportunities to international students. Mr. Zarins reiterated that this proposal was for Council's information only. No decisions have been made. Mr. Côté thanked Mr. Zarins and Ms Wolanski for a most interesting presentation.

5. REPORTS

5.1. Security. Mr. Michel Bujold, Director of Security gave an overview of the security operations at Concordia University. The University employs approximately 85 security guards (12 University guards and 73 contract security guards). He spoke briefly of how the role of Security has changed over the years. He felt that the department has developed a pro-active approach which has been beneficial to the Concordia community. The Department of Security tries to be involved in all aspects of the Concordia community as well as out-reach programs with various law enforcement agencies and Community agencies in order to better serve Concordia. Questions were raised about why some security procedures differed on each of the campuses. Mr. Bujold answered that as much as possible the procedures should be the same. Some differences stem from a historical perspective. However He agreed to examine any differences in order to improve the service. Mr. Edwards felt that on the whole the Security Guards are much more "user friendly" and thanked Mr. Bujold for this improvement in relations. Mr. Côté asked Mr. Bujold to comment on Security's relationship with the Student Safety Patrol. Mr. Bujold said he is a member of the Safety Patrol Advisory Board. He felt that the patrol was a strong addition to the university. The positive working relationship that exists between the Security and the Patrol enhances the University environment and makes the University a safer place. Mr. Côté thanked Mr. Bujold for an interesting presentation.

5.2 Writing Centre

Ms Anna Soule and Ms Sheri Rapp, two writing assistants spoke briefly of the history of the Centre. Originally under the responsibility of Counselling & Development, The Centre now operates under the umbrella of the Dean of Students Office. The Centre is located in the Hall 662, just down the hall from the Dean of Students Office. The writing assistants come from varied backgrounds but all are qualified to assist any student in their quest for better writing skills. The Centre is available to help the students organize their papers, give feedback, brainstorm, or just to get a "kick-start". Appointments can be made by telephone or in person. A student is allowed a

maximum of two appointments (1 hour each) per week. However, the waiting period still can be as long as two weeks. Since September, approximately 538 students (1,589 sessions) have been assisted. The demands on the staff are high. The writing assistants felt the centre has great potential. The staff would like to improve their knowledge in order to better serve the diverse student population. This could be achieved through workshops, interaction with other similar centres, conferences, etc. However, this would necessitate an increase in the budget. Mr. Côté said the student services budget has been approved to the year 2000. However at the end of that period, this program and budget can be reviewed. He thanked Ms Soule and Ms Rapp for a most interesting and informative presentation.

6. ITEMS OF INFORMATION

Ms Blackwood questioned the cut-back in shuttle bus hours for the examination period. The last shuttle bus is at 5:00pm, but there are evening examinations at Loyola. Ms West added that the summer session holds classes on both campuses, yet there is no shuttle bus service after 4:00pm to accommodate those students. Ms Boujaklian agreed to bring this issue to the attention of the appropriate person. Ms Blackwood noted that there were now signs posted clearly on the shuttle bus indicating the capacity. The Shuttle Bus Drivers are now adhering to this policy. However as no additional buses were added to the schedule, the line-ups are very long and the problem has not been solved. Mr. Côté said this issue would be brought to the attention of the Vice Rector.

7. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR, MS KERBY, RECREATION & ATHLETIC BOARD

Ms Kerby spoke briefly on the mandate of the Recreation & Athletic Board. She indicated that at the last Board meeting some very hard questions were put to Mr. Emond. The answer was that the University would not be able to cover a deficit. In other words, there would no be "bail-outs". Charge-backs to the department of Athletics from Physical Plant and Security will be a recurring expense. As well there would be more of a burden put on Recreation & Athletics to assume infrastructure costs to the facilities. In addition pressure to improve the facilities on the SGW Campus is on-going. In light of these matters, a deficit for 1998-99 was projected by the Director of Recreation & Athletics and he had a management decision to make. It was not an easy one. The decision was to cut the Concordia Women's Varsity Volley-Ball Team. The cost of women's volley-ball at the varsity level is high. The investment in this sport over the last ten years relative to its return at the varsity level has been comparatively low. Financing, performance and the overall effect of cutting this programme on the department were key factors in making the decision. The redistribution of these funds will go primarily towards facility costs, CIAU travel, increased access to facility time level, and to cover the university costs vis-à-vis recovery and the charge-back system. There is no good time to make this decision. But as the fiscal year-end is May 31st and in order to give people an opportunity to make changes, the decision was made in April. Although it was a management decision, it did require consultation with the board. For several reasons, the Board was not able to meet in April. However, members of the Board were called, given the parameters of the decision and an opportunity to discuss it. The decision was not unanimous but there was majority support for the decision. Ms Kerby informed Council that there will be more decisions in the next few years that will be equally difficult if we are to stay within our budgets and maintain the quality of the Athletic Program.

Ms West requested speaking privileges for representatives from the Women's Volley-Ball Team: Ms Isabel Galiana, Ms Nahid Shahalimi, Ms Sylvie Lacombe, and Ms Heather Bargar (Assistant Coach). Mr. Edwards requested speaking privileges for Mr. John Dore (Men's Basketball Coach). Council had no objection.

A lengthy discussion on this issue followed. Ms Cogger asked if this decision has been made or is it an issue before Council. Ms Kerby informed Council the decision has been made to cut Women's Volley-Ball.. Mr. Hinton asked if certain Athletic teams become more successful (i.e. more expensive), does that mean that more cuts may have to be made down the road. Ms Kerby agreed that was a possibility. Ms Galiana, Ms Shahalimi, Ms Lacombe and Ms Bargar all spoke on the need to retain the Volley-Ball program at Concordia. They raised many questions with respect to policies and procedures - budgets, gender equity and the commitment Concordia had made to this team vis-a-vis recruitment, etc. They questioned why a proposed team trip to Japan had been approved by the Director just a week before the team was cut. The student athletes said that intramural program cannot compare to the Varsity program with respect to training, competition, level of excellence and commitment level. Ms Bargar raised issues concerning the mandate of the Recreation & Athletics Board with respect to the decision to cut Women's Volley-Ball. As a member of the Recreation & Athletic Board, she felt that proper procedures had not been followed especially since she had not been reached to discuss this decision. She felt the Athletic department should be more about programs and less about administration and support services. She questioned if there might be some other areas where expenses could be reduced as she felt no alternatives had been investigated. These students felt strongly that this decision had been made quickly without any discussion or research of possible options. Mr. Dore spoke briefly about the history of Women's Volley-ball in relation to gender equity. He also questioned the validity of the process that resulted in this decision. However, Mr. Côté informed Council that this process is valid and that the Director of Athletics is vested with the authority to make this decision. Mr. Hinton asked if there had been a meeting by the Board to discuss this issue and to make the decision to cut the volleyball team. Ms Kerby answered the decision was supported by the majority of the Board members. The decision was not a Board decision. It is a management decision made by the Director of Athletics. The members of the Board were canvassed and the majority supported the decision of the Director of Athletics. Mr. Hinton felt that as the mandate of the Board is to make recommendations on the adding or subtracting of teams the Board should have met to discuss this issue. Mr. Hinton asked, that as part of the mandate of the Board is create the criteria for adding or subtracting a team, could the Board supply CCSL with a timeline detailing their progress. Ms Kerby, as chair of the Board, agreed. Ms Kerby offered to hold an open Forum on the Wednesday, April 29th. This forum would allow questions to be answered and concerns addressed. A notice concerning this open forum would be distributed through the CCSL List Serve confirming the time and location on the Loyola Campus. As well invitations would be issued to the members of the Recreation & Athletics Board. Mr. Côté thanked the members of the volley-ball team for bringing their concerns to Council.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Edwards distributed copies of the CSU Job Bank and Off-Campus Housing Report. This report must be approved by Council in order for the CSU to receive their annual subsidy of \$20,600. However, as it was now after 1:00pm, it was decided to defer this issue to the May meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be Friday, May 22, 1998 in H 769 at 10:00am.

10. TERMINATION OF MEETING

A motion to terminate the meeting was made by Mr. Edwards, seconded by Dr. Graub.

The motion was carried unanimously